

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 063340
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 SS-15 /038 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:RRHART:MFR
APPROVED BY EA/PRCM:HETTHAYER
EA/TIMBS:DLFIELD
EA:ROAKLEY

-----082872 120434Z /65

R 110340Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON
INFO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063340

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, CH

SUBJECT: SUGGESTED LUNCHEON IN RANGOON WITH AMBASSADOR
WOODCOCK

REF: RANGOON 813

1. DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION TO PROPOSED LUNCHEON,
SUBJECT TO AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK'S OWN WISHES.
2. NORMALLY, CHINESE REPRESENTATIVES A0ROAD HAVE NOT
ACCEPTED SOCIAL INVITATIONS FROM US COUNTERPARTS.
RECENTLY, HOEVER, US DEFENSE ATTACHES IN SEVERAL PLACES
(INCLUDING RANGOON) HAVE FOUND PRC MILITARY ATTACHES
RECEPTIVE TO SUCH SOCIAL EXCHANGES. IT IS STILL UNCLEAR
WHETHER THESE MORE RELAXED PRC GUIDELINES EXTEND TO
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CONTACTS WITH US CIVILIAN DIPLOMATS BUT WE BELIEVE THAT
THE PRESENCE OF AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK IN RANGOON MIGHT
PROVIDE A USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO TEST THE WATER.

3. WHILE WE ASSUME THAT LUNCHEON, IF IT OCCURS, WILL BE
TREATED AS SOCIAL OCCASION, ONE POSSIBLE TOPIC OF
CONVERSATION WHICH COULD BE DISCREETLY BROACHED WOULD BE

THE RUMORED PRC PROPOSAL FOR AN ASIAN UNITY CONFERENCE THAT MAY HAVE BEEN RAISED DURING PRC VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING'S VISIT TO RANGOON (RANGOON 424). THUS FAR, PRC REPRESENTATIVES IN HONG KONG AND ELSEWHERE HAVE DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH A PROPOSAL, SUGGESTING THAT IF THERE IS ANY BASIS FOR THE RUMOR, THE CHINESE ARE HANDLING THE MATTER VERY DISCREETLY. ANY LIGHT PRC AMBASSADOR COULD THROW ON THE SUBJECT WOULD BE OF OBVIOUS INTEREST.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE063340
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RRHART:MFR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780110-0443
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780378/aaaacogq.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 34c218c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 78 RANGOON 813
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3359882
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUGGESTED LUNCHEON IN RANGOON WITH AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK
TAGS: PDIP, CH
To: RANGOON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/34c218c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014